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University of Montana

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MEDIA RELEASE

11/30/81
state

UM EDUCATION DEAN RESIGNS

MISSOULA--

Dean Albert H. Yee announced his resignation today as dean of the School of Education at the University of Montana, effective at the end of the 1981-82 year. He made the decision after completing his fourth tour of universities in the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) with opportunity again to visit educational leaders in Hong Kong this autumn. Dr. Yee decided that he should devote himself to challenging opportunities which have been sensed for years to further his scholarship, service in promoting educational and psychological developments in Asia, and interests in photography and cultural arts.

Joining the University in 1979, Dr. Yee had served previously as Graduate Dean and Professor of Educational Psychology at California State University, Long Beach, 1973-79, and at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he obtained the rank of full professor while there, 1967-73.

An accomplished scholar who seeks results, Dr. Yee has been elected twice to Fellow status by the American Psychological Association (A.P.A.), in 1975 for original research achievements and in 1980 for significant contributions to the solution of social issues, such as his efforts against racism and to improve federal policy on demographic statistics. He has served on a number of national boards and advisory committees, such as A.P.A.'s International Relations Committee and Board of Ethnic Minority Affairs and an advisory committee to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Dean Yee established communications for A.P.A. with psychologists in China after a pioneering mission to the P.R.C. in 1972. A Senior Fulbright Lecturer in Japan that same year, Dr. Yee traveled through China seeking out psychologists with State Department support and became the first Fulbright scholar to visit the P.R.C. Prior to

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DEAN YEE RESIGNS--add one

President Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972, Dr. Yee assisted the National Security Council in drafting provisions for educational, scientific, and cultural exchanges between the U.S. and the P.R.C. which materialized in the Shanghai Communique.

In recognition of his scholarship and efforts to promote Sino-American relations, the Chinese Academy of Sciences honored him in May 1980 as its first invited American psychologist to lecture in the P.R.C. Dr. Yee is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Conference on Research in English. Numbering over 100, his publications cover a broad range of topics, mainly on the social psychology of education, ethnic identity, and teacher education. He is president of the Asian American Psychological Association, holds his doctorate from Stanford University and a B.A. from University of California, Berkeley, and is aged 52.

President Neil Bucklew acknowledged the contributions made by Dean Yee upon receipt of the resignation. Among the major accomplishments that have occurred during the period of Dean Yee's appointment are reorganizing the School of Education into four academic departments and the transfer of the Home Economics Department into the School, promoting scholarly and student exchanges for the University with European and Asian institutions, and developing proposals for the educational specialist degree and the joint doctorate in special education degree.

President Bucklew stated: "Dean Yee has contributed significantly to the development of the School of Education. He has insisted on excellence in the endeavors of the School." The president also complimented the leadership Dr. Yee has provided in international relations. "International exchanges are an important area of development for the University. Dr. Yee's contributions in that regard deserve our applause."

President Bucklew emphasized that Dean Yee will be providing leadership in the

(more)

DEAN YEE RESIGNS--add two

months ahead for several major reviews scheduled for Universitywide programs in teacher education. "I am pleased that Dean Yee will be able to guide our efforts during these critical reviews."

Dr. Yee will be on leave without salary as professor for the 1982-83 year. He plans to maintain his residence in Missoula with frequent travel to Asia.

"Now I can embark upon the many tasks and interests which have been delayed and postponed for years," he said. "I feel privileged to have had the chance to help build a stronger School of Education at the University of Montana and am satisfied that I can leave knowing it has progressed somewhat since 1979." President Bucklew indicated that a search for a new dean would be instituted in the near future.

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